

Remarks:

1. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,419,199 B1 to Skofljanec et al.
 - a. Regarding claim 1, applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitation of the flux deflector being of ferro-magnetic material. This should satisfy the Examiner's concern re the slider of Skofljanec deflecting some amount of flux no matter what the material. For at least these reasons, applicants contend that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Skofljanec and is in condition for allowance.
 - b. Claims 2, 4 and 8 all depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons cited above, applicants contend that claims 2, 4, and 8 are in condition for allowance.
2. Claims 1-9, 12 and 13 are rejected under 25 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Haas et al. (6,831,537).
 - a. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitation of the flux deflector being mounted on an opposing of the magnet from the sensing switch. Support for this amendment is found in Figure 1 of the instant application. This distinguishes the instant invention over Haas, as Haas clearly has the flux deflector (shield 3) intervene between the magnet and the sensing switch. Applicant's novel structure allows for a much simpler implementation and is patentably distinct from Haas.

Appl. No. 10/664,127
Amdt. Dated **18-APR-2006**
Reply to Office Action of February 28, 2006

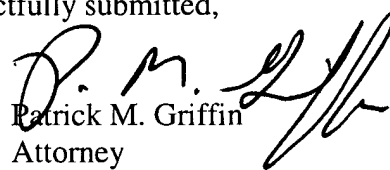
- b. Claims 2-9, 12 and 13 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and therefore,
for at least the reasons cited above, are in condition for allowance.
3. Claim 3 has been amended to correct an antecedent basis problem.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the instant application.
Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance and look forward to a
timely Notice of Allowance.

Although no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit
Account No. 50-0831 for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

By


Patrick M. Griffin
Attorney
Telephone (248) 813-1215
Reg. No. 29716

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